task involved and the non-availability of some of the old records, it is not possible to furnish a precise time frame for implementation.

Development of Coovam River in Madras

4823. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Union Government for the development of Coovam river in Madras City of inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Building Construction Contracts from Foreign Contries

4824. SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an efficient building construction infrastructure is available in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost export of Civil Construction projects;

(c) whether the Government also propose to help the project exporters in securing building construction contracts from Gulf countries and Latin American Countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Over the years India has acquired considerable experience, expertise and capabilities for executing a wide range of projects in the area of civil construction.

(b) to (d). Government have taken a number of promotional measures to boost project exports to various countries including Gulf and Latin America. These include:-

Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of 50% of cost of preparation and submission of bids. Market Development Assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by consultancy firms. EXIM Bank, in addition to suppliers' credit and buyers' credit, has also been extending lines of credit to various developing countries with a view to encourage export of projects. Exemption of Income Tax upto 50% on earnings from exporters of projects and Consultancy Services under Section 80-HHB and 80-O of Income Tax Act respectively. Concessional Import Duty on import of project used machinery and equipment by the project exporters has also been allowed.

A Special Group has been